

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L THE HAGUE 5369

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MPOL NATO NL

SUBJECT: DUTCH PROPOSAL ON NATO FORCE PLANNING PROCEDURES

REF: (A) USNATO 5186 (B) USNATO 5034

1. MOD VREDELING'S VIEW OF FESIRABILITY FOR MODIFYING NATO FORCE PLANNING PROCEDURES AS REPORTED BY AMBASSADOR HARTOGH (REF A) IS LOGICAL EXTENSION OF POSITION HE HAS ADVOCATED FOR PAST THREE YEARS. DURING HIS TENURE AS MOD, VREDELING HAS BECOME MOST OUTSPOKEN, ALTHOUGH AT TIMES SOMEWHAT IMPULSIVE, PROPONENT OF RATIONALIZATION WITHIN NATO. HE IS CONSTANTLY ON THE LOOKOUT FOR AREAS IN WHICH SOME PROGRESS CAN BE ACHIEVED.

2. HARTOGH'S PERSONAL VIEW OF VREDELING'S THINKING IS SOUND. DUTCH DEFMIN DOES HAVE A DIFFICULT TIME IN DEFENDING NATO GOALS AND TASKS LEVIED UPON NETHERLANDS. WE HAVE HEARD MOST SENIOR LEVELS OF MILITARY SERVICES AS WELL AS KNOWLEDGEABLE CIVILIANS MAKE SAME POINTS REGARDING PROBLEM THEY HAVE IN SELLING DEFENSE BUDGETS TO SKEPTICAL PARLIAMENTARIANS. IN ADDITION, WE SAW EVIDENCE OF IT OURSELVES DURING PARLIAMENTARY CONSIDERATION OF F-16 SELECTION WHEN LABOR PARTY AND OTHER LEFT-WINGERS CONTINUALLY QUESTIONED NEED FOR REPLACEMENT OF STARFIGHTERS
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WITH SOPHISTICATED AIRCRAFT DESIGNED TO PERFORM EXPANSIVE AIR

COMBAT ROLES. LEFT WING OF LABOR PARTY REPEATEDLY QUESTIONED
FACT THAT NATO FORCE GOALS REQUIRED HOLLAND TO MAINTAIN CERTAIN
AIR CAPABILITIES. A CONTINUEING THEME SOUNDED DURING DEBATE
WAS "WHO MADE THESE DECISIONS FOR US"?
GOULD

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